

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) An isolated polynucleotide comprising a nucleic acid molecule selected from the group consisting of:

- a) the polynucleotide of SEQ ID NO:1; and
- ~~b) the polynucleotide of SEQ ID NO:5;~~
- ~~e) the polynucleotide of SEQ ID NO:6;~~
- ~~d) the polynucleotide of SEQ ID NO:7; and,~~
- e) b) a polynucleotide that is capable of hybridizing to a polynucleotide of a)-d) under conditions of moderate high stringency that include 50% formamide, 6X SSC at about 42°C, with washing at approximately 68°C, 0.2X SSC, 0.1% SD, wherein the polypeptide encoded by the polynucleotide binds an IL-1R family member a cell expressing IL-1 zeta receptor.

2. (currently amended) An isolated polynucleotide comprising a nucleic acid molecule that encodes a polypeptide selected from the group consisting of:

- a) a polypeptide comprising SEQ ID NO:3;
- ~~b) a polypeptide comprising SEQ ID NO:8;~~
- ~~e) a polypeptide comprising SEQ ID NO:9;~~
- ~~d) a polypeptide comprising SEQ ID NO:10;~~
- e) b) a polypeptide that is at least 80% 95% identical to a polypeptide of a)-d), wherein the polypeptide binds an IL-1R family member a cell expressing IL-1 zeta receptor; and,
- ~~f) c) a fragment of the polypeptide of a)-e)-or b), wherein the fragment binds an IL-1R family member a cell expressing IL-1 zeta receptor, and further wherein the fragment comprises amino acid 51 through 188 of SEQ ID NO:3.~~

Claims 3 through 5 currently cancelled.

6. (original) A vector comprising a polynucleotide of claim 1.

7. (original) A vector comprising a polynucleotide of claim 2.

Claim 8 currently cancelled.

9. (currently amended) ~~A~~ An isolated host cell transformed or transfected with an expression vector of claim 6.

10. (currently amended) ~~A~~ An isolated host cell transformed or transfected with an expression vector of claim 7.

Claim 11 currently cancelled.

12. (original) A method for preparing a polypeptide, the method comprising culturing a host cell of claim 9 under conditions promoting expression of the polypeptide.

13. (original) A method for preparing a polypeptide, the method comprising culturing a host cell of claim 10 under conditions promoting expression of the polypeptide.

Claims 14 through 23 currently cancelled.

24. (newly added) The polynucleotide of claim 2, encoding a polypeptide comprising amino acids x through y of SEQ ID NO:3, wherein x is an integer between 1 and 50, inclusive, and y is an integer between 188 and 192, inclusive, further wherein the polypeptide has one or more changes in amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of:

- a) substitution of an amino acid by a residue having similar physiochemical characteristics;
- b) inactivation of N-glycosylation sites;
- c) deletion or replacement of Cys residues that are not essential for biological activity; and
- d) inactivated KEX2 protease processing sites

25. (newly added) The polynucleotide of claim 2, which encodes a variant polypeptide as a result of alternate mRNA splicing, wherein the variant polypeptide comprises amino acids 51 through 192 of SEQ ID NO:3.

26. (newly added) A polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide comprising amino acids x through y of SEQ ID NO:3, wherein x is an integer between 1 and 50, inclusive, and y is an integer between 188 and 192, inclusive.

27. (newly added) A vector comprising a polynucleotide of claim 24.

28. (newly added) A vector comprising a polynucleotide of claim 25.

29. (newly added) A vector comprising a polynucleotide of claim 26.

30. (newly added) An isolated host cell transformed or transfected with an expression vector of claim 27.

31. (newly added) An isolated host cell transformed or transfected with an expression vector of claim 28.

32. (newly added) An isolated host cell transformed or transfected with an expression vector of claim 29.

33. (newly added) A method for preparing a polypeptide, the method comprising culturing a host cell of claim 30 under conditions promoting expression of the polypeptide.

34. (newly added) A method for preparing a polypeptide, the method comprising culturing a host cell of claim 31 under conditions promoting expression of the polypeptide.

35. (newly added) A method for preparing a polypeptide, the method comprising culturing a host cell of claim 32 under conditions promoting expression of the polypeptide.